

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093942
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
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CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 NRC-07 /191 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 093942

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: L 12 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DAVID SHIPLER OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW, SAID CARTER'S STATEMENT LAST WEEK POSTPONING DEPLOYMENT OF NEUTRON WEAPON "APPEARS TO HAVE LAID GROUND-WORK FOR NEW CONFRONTATION ON ISSUE" INSTEAD OF DEFUSING SOVIET-AMERICAN CONFLICT. SHIPLER SAID MOSCOW "HAS RESPONDED BY ISSUING SEVERAL REJECTIONS OF AMERICAN SUG-
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 093942

GESTION THAT IF U.S. REFRAINS FROM DEPLOYING NEUTRON BOMB, SOVIET UNION SHOULD MAKE SOME RECIPROCAL MOVE, SUCH AS HOLDING OFF DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE OF ITS NEW SS-20 MOBILE MISSILE." TIMES CORRESPONDENT SAID TOPIC CERTAINLY WILL BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK BY VANCE DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW, BUT "IN VIEW OF MOSCOW'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ISSUE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT EXCHANGEWILLBE ACRIMONIOUS. THIS IS

PARTLY BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER CHOSE TO MAKE HIS SUGGESTION IN PUBLIC RATHER THAN HAVING MR. VANCE PRESENT IT PRIVATELY, CREATING SITUATION REMINISCENT OF TIME YEAR AGO WHEN, BEFORE VISIT BY MR. VANCE, MR. CARTER MADE PUBLIC TWO PROPOSALS FOR STRATEGIC ARMS TREATIES HE WOULD OFFER TO

MOSCOW. RUSSIANS SAW TACTIC THEN, AND MAY SEE IT NOW, AS AN ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THEM INTO COMPROMISE, BY PORTRAYING THEM AS MILITARISTS WHEN THEY LIKE TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS ADVOCATES OF DISARMAMENT. THEIR RESPONSE LAST YEAR WAS TO REJECT AMERICAN PROPOSALS. NEUTRON BOMB MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESSER ISSUE THAN LONG-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES, BUT THERE IS NO SIGN SO FAR THAT RUSSIANS' INTRANSIGENCE WILL BE ANY LESS."

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID VANCE'S MISSIONS TO AFRICA AND SOVIET UNION "ARE PLAGUED WITH UNCERTAINTIES" AND "TAKE PLACE AT LOWEST POINT OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DIPLOMATIC PRESTIGE." ON THIS TRIP, MARDER SAID, "EXPECTATIONS ARE SO LOW AND CRITICISM OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DIPLOMACY IS SO INTENSE, THAT ANY SUCCESS THAT VANCE ACHIEVES WOULD BE BOOST FOR BELEAGUERED ADMINISTRATION." POST CORRESPONDENT SAID THERE ARE MISGIVINGS INSIDE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ABOUT WISDOM OF EVEN VENTURING ON FIRST LEG OF VANCE'S JOURNEY, AFRICAN PORTION. BUT VANCE ASSOCIATE SAID SECRETARY IS DETERMINED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 093942

MAKE EFFORT TO HEAD OFF THREAT OF CIVIL WAR BETWEEN BLACK FACTIONS IN RHODESIA, MARDER REPORTED. AS FOR VISIT TO SOVIET UNION, MARDER SAID "GREAT DEAL WILL DEPEND ON ATMOSPHERE THAT VANCE ENCOUNTERS IN MOSCOW, IN WAKE OF BREZHNEV'S APRIL 7 SEVERE CRITICISM OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR DISPLAYING 'INDECISION, INCONSISTENCY' IN SALT BARGAINING. THAT CRITICISM, COINCIDING WITH SIMILAR PUBLIC COMPLAINTS FROM WESTERN EUROPE ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S HANDLING OF NEUTRON WEAPON DECISION, HAS BROUGHT CARTER ADMINISTRATION UNDER HEAVIEST DIPLOMATIC CROSSFIRE SINCE IT ENTERED OFFICE, INEVITABLY, VANCE'S TRIP, THEREFORE, TURNS INTO AN UNUSUAL TEST OF ADMINISTRATION'S OVER-ALL DIPLOMATIC CAPABILITY."

3. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT THAT TWO WEAPONS-RELATED NUCLEAR DEVICES WERE DETONATED YESTERDAY DEEP BENEATH PAHUTE MESA AT NEVADA TEST SITE. FIRST TEST WAS FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT. SECOND TEST, FOR U.S., WAS CONDUCTED ABOUT FIVE MILES FROM FIRST ONE. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, IN ANNOUNCING TESTS, HAD SAID EACH DEVICE PACKED FORCE OF 20,000 TO 150,000 TONS OF TNT. BUT DEVICES PROBABLY WERE CLOSER TO UPPER END OF SCALE,

AP SAID, SINCE TESTS RARELY ARE ANNOUNCED UNLESS THERE IS CHANCE THEY CAN BE FELT IN LAS VEGAS, 120 MILES TO SOUTH.

4. GEORGE KISTIAKOWSKY, SCIENCE ADVISER TO FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND ONE OF PRINCIPAL DEVELOPERS OF ORIGINAL ATOMIC BOMB, TOLD CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NEUTRON BOMB IS DANGEROUS AND

INEFFECTIVE WEAPON. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID "BY SPEAKING OUT THIS STRONGLY AT THIS TIME, DR. KISTIAKOWSKY IS TRYING TO LEND HIS CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT AS AN EXPERT TO SIDE OF NEUTRON BOMB DEBATE THAT ARGUES AGAINST MANUFACTURE AND DEPLOYMENT OF WEAPON." MONITOR REPORTED: "SINCE NEUTRON BOMB COULD BE USED AGAINST TANKS ONLY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 093942

MASS FORMATION AND SINCE THEY WOULD BE MASSED ONLY EARLY IN BATTLE BEFORE FANNING OUT, DR. KISTIAKOWSKY THINKS THERE WOULD BE STRONG PRESSURE TO USE BOMB EARLY IN AN ATTACK. THIS, HE BELIEVES, WOULD MAKE NUCLEAR WAR MORE LIKELY. FOR THIS REASON, TOO, HE IS AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB DEPLOYMENT."

5. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT SINCE SUNDAY, NEW U.S. LAW FORBIDS SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES UNLESS U.S. HAS VETO OVER USE OF FUEL IN WAYS THAT MIGHT MAKE EASIER PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SUN SAID THAT REQUIRES RENEGOTIATION OF U.S. ARRANGEMENT WITH EURATOM. "BUT EUROPEANS, ACCUSING U.S. OF RENEGING, REFUSE TO RENEGOTIATE. RESULT IS WHAT ONE OFFICIAL CALLS 'POLITE CONFRONTATION,' IN WHICH EUROPEANS TACITLY THREATEN TO GO THEIR OWN WAY -- COURSE THAT COULD INCREASE DANGER OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION." STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TOM RESTON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. SO FAR HAS RECEIVED "NO FORMAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN RENEGOTIATION." RESTON SAID NEXT MOVE "IS FOR EURATOM TO MAKE." EXPORT LICENSES ALREADY APPROVED BY NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WILL BE HONORED, RESTON SAID. BUT THE NRC CANNOT ACT ON NEW APPLICATIONS UNTIL EURATOM AGREES TO RENEGOTIATE. SUN SAID MORE THAN ANY OTHER MEMBER OF EURATOM, FRANCE INSISTS THAT U.S. HONOR LETTER OF PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS. OTHER MEMBERS OF EURATOM ARE HARDLY ANY HAPPIER WITH U.S. POLICY, WHICH THEY REGARD AS MISGUIDED, SUN REPORTED. "BUT MOST WOULD ENGAGE IN FACE-SAVING EXCHANGE THAT WOULD ENABLE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE SUPPLIES OF FUEL.... AMERICAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE YESTERDAY THAT WAY WILL BE FOUND TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS. IF THAT HAPPENS, ACCORDING TO U.S. INTERPRETATION OF LAW, THEN U.S. CAN PROVIDE FUEL FOR TWO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 093942

MORE YEARS WHILE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE." VANCE

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